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by Erika Lingner

Whom to Marry?

We have a very busy house; there are young men who live with us, there are young girls who are learning housekeeping and childcare with us, and all these young people ask me the big question almost every day: *whom should I marry?* I am aware that in the context of a short essay I can only emphasize a few points which are, so to speak, the prerequisites for a harmonious marriage. It is so

infinitely important that young people are aware of the difficulties of their union beforehand, and that they know: Marriage is not a rose-colored cloud in a sea of bliss, but marriage is a task; a task that everyone must first solve for themselves, but with a view to their folk.

In this sense, National Socialism has already had an enlightening effect down to the last person. "*Am I healthy? Is my partner healthy? Who were our ancestors? Can we even have healthy, vigorous children?*" Well done to a folk that forges its future so responsibly! I have set myself the task here of reflecting on whether health and love can be the sole basis for a harmonious and blessed marriage. Certainly, both are essential for the union of two people. But beyond that, the question must be asked: are we compatible? It is always said that opposites attract! But on closer inspection, what kind of opposites are these? A black-haired man wooing a blonde girl or vice versa. And indeed: a pretty sight! And isn't it lucky when a very lively young girl finds a calm, quiet man to marry, or a lively young husband takes home a fine, self-contained wife? Contrasts in appearance and temperament, but what of contrasts in their attitude to life in general?

The first thing to think of is the difference in religion. It is likely that everyone has mixed marriages of Protestant and Catholic denominations in their circle of acquaintances, and everyone will be able to cite examples of the conflicts to which such a union leads, especially if everyone takes it seriously and yet it is necessary from the outset for one party to fit in, and this is of great importance with regard to the upbringing of the children.

A second point: the same homeland is of great importance for living together; today, people from East and West and North and South are mixed up by the good means of transportation, and so today marriages often occur between people who come from completely opposite countries. Harmony depends very much on the nature of both sides, which is determined by race and homeland. I am thinking here of the marriage of a distinctly Nordic person with a Westerner. In such a marriage, experience has shown that a great deal of tension arises from the different racial experiences and views - and that creates a certain alienation.

Engaged couples and lovers usually don't even think about the fact that even in marriage there are seven days in a week. And getting into the daily routine together is almost the greatest feat at the beginning. Until now, they only met on Sundays, after work, went together on outings, to activities and social gatherings. How good and unifying it is when they both come from the same milieu, light a fire in the home hearth, feed it and warm themselves on it?

"Yes", I now hear the readers interject, "you're probably forgetting the financial basis, which is usually mentioned as the first prerequisite". No, I don't want to forget or ignore it, but I don't think it's decisive at all. It's wonderful when a secure income makes life easier, when children are so longed for and the desire for them is so self-evident. Wonderful, but should two young people who fulfill all the other conditions not marry just because there is no money and no dowry, or where there is only an uncertain or very small income? Why want life to be so easy and comfortable? Why be secretly engaged for many years or even separate "out of reason" and each go their own way? I always believe that all these people who act against the feelings of their heart just lacked courageous encouragement at the right moment. I have seen again and again that two people, who were later married quite happily, worked and saved and that they rose above these difficulties and forged their lives, both developing into personalities, guides and role models for their children. Isn't that a goal worth taking on a challenging life to achieve? Do your duty and entrust your life to God!

Is it really so appealing to come home from the wedding and find an apartment furnished by your mother, where all you have to do is open all the drawers and cupboards like in a doll's house to find and use what you want? No struggle from the start, no goal to strive for. And how relieving when, after nine long, boring months, something finally happens: the baby arrives. Thank God, I always say, now at least life is worthwhile for these people, now it has content through caring for the child. No, I say it loudly and repeatedly: young people first have to go through a period of hardship and learn to eat their bread gratefully. And good for them if they fight through this time together and reduce their demands together; at first it is so difficult and then so happy to be independent of the outside world.

One question that is hotly debated among young people and that young girls in particular ask their boyfriends is: Would you marry a girl who belonged to someone else before you? "And out of 100 men, 99 say, generously throwing themselves into the chest: "If I liked 'her' otherwise, that shouldn't be an obstacle." Well, do we want to be generous and magnanimous in other areas of life, do we want to let bygones be bygones, but in this matter too? Let's look at this matter purely from a biological point of view.

Now the wonderful thing about nature is that it has made provision for man to act not only according to his intellect in great matters — it also gave him instinct. The uncorrupted man instinctively seeks a chaste girl for a wife. Nature has given chastity to woman as the highest point attraction, and how foolish the girl who has given up this highest attraction before her time, perhaps only out of curiosity or playfulness. It does not even require a particularly good knowledge of human nature to see whether a young girl has preserved her chastity. It is expressed in the whole appearance, in the facial expressions, in the features and in the attitude in general. It is instinctual, and therefore biologically correct, that a girl is despised or labeled second-class if she is not aware of the value of her body. As the mother of a daughter, you cannot start early enough in her upbringing to give the girl clarity in this sense. All young girls want to marry, and if they knew that keeping their body pure is the price they have to pay to achieve this as a woman, they would often not act so rashly and recklessly. Nature cannot be outwitted, however ingenious the methods.

If the young girl makes the same demand of chastity on the young man (although the case is biologically different here), there is only one solution to this problem: early marriage. Today's state facilitates this by granting marriage loans, and then the children benefit from all the unspent youthful energy of the young spouses.

Do not let the most beautiful years of your life pass by, do not wait for external securities! Take hold of the strength and idealism of youth and build your own future.

Where two people are happy, heaven also gives its blessing!